

House Resolution 1671

By: Representatives Buckner of the 130th, Meadows of the 5th, Reece of the 11th, Mumford of the 95th, Porter of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Jekyll Island—State Park Authority to take certain measures to preserve one of
2 the largest and last remaining unobstructed views of Georgia’s coastline and to protect
3 Georgia’s growing attraction, the endangered sea turtle; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island is home to one of the last remaining unobstructed views of
5 Georgia’s coastline, and this open strip of beach provides not only an incredible and rare
6 scenic treasure, it is also one of the primary features contributing to the island’s economy by
7 attracting visitors from all over this state and country who come to see the wonders of
8 nature’s natural beauty; and

9 WHEREAS, Jekyll Island is the people’s island, and the preservation of the approaches to
10 the island’s open beaches, allowing for families to visit and bring small children without
11 having to walk long distances or cross dangerous roads, is one of the most important means
12 by which the island has assured access to the beach for the average Georgian; and

13 WHEREAS, the sea turtle is an amazingly beautiful yet endangered species common to
14 Jekyll Island; and

15 WHEREAS, the growing popularity of the preservation efforts to protect the endangered sea
16 turtle on Jekyll Island has brought a renewed interest in the island and continues to help
17 bolster the island’s economy; and

18 WHEREAS, by taking steps to preserve and increase the sea turtle population, Georgia helps
19 the sea turtles, ensures that this fascinating species continues for the enjoyment of
20 generations to come, and creates a unique attraction which draws visitors from around the
21 world to the Georgia coast; and

22 WHEREAS, investments made in the protection of sea turtles on Jekyll Island are smart
23 investments for nature lovers as well as the island’s businesses.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body urge the Jekyll Island—State Park Authority to:

3 (1) Restrict or limit any additional project, development, or other improvement to be
4 constructed or made on that part of Jekyll Island lying within the following described area:
5 beginning on the eastern right of way of Beach View Drive at a point due east of the
6 northernmost point of the convention center, thence northward along the eastern right of
7 way of Beach View Drive to the intersection with Old Shell Road, thence due east to the
8 Atlantic Ocean, thence southward along the Atlantic Ocean shore to a point due east of the
9 point of beginning, and thence westward to the point of beginning; and

10 (2) Adopt ordinances governing emissions of light, from both external and internal
11 sources, from seaward and shore-perpendicular sides of buildings on Jekyll Island in order
12 to protect sea turtles. The authority should consult with the Department of Natural
13 Resources in developing such ordinances. The authority should annually review the
14 enforcement and effectiveness of such ordinances and should report the same, along with
15 the number of sea turtle nesting sites, to the public. The first ordinances and report should
16 be made not later than December 31, 2008. The authority should review such ordinances
17 not less than every five years thereafter and update the same as necessary and appropriate
18 for maintaining and improving sea turtle populations.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
20 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Jekyll Island—State
21 Park Authority and to the Governor of this state.